



H.R. 3819 – VETERANS EMERGENCY CARE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3819 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Zach Space (D-OH) on October 10, 2007. The House Committee on Veterans Affairs agreed to the bill by voice vote on April 30, 2008.

H.R. 3819 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 20, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3819 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide reimbursement to veterans for all emergency treatment received in a non-Veterans Affairs health facility. These veterans are to receive reimbursement until they are transferred to a Veterans Affairs facility.

Additionally, the legislation requires the Secretary to reimburse veterans who aggravate a service connected disability for the value of the emergency treatment that has been made using sources other than veterans affairs funding.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides hospital and outpatient services to eligible veterans. Services include treatments, procedures, supplies, and services needed to promote, preserve, or restore a veteran's health. Certain dependents of eligible veterans may also receive benefits. The Veterans Health Administration oversees many of these benefit programs.

As of 2007, there were 23.8 million veterans in the U.S., with 7.8 million veterans enrolled in the veterans health care system. Just over 39% of this population is over the age of 65. There are 153 veterans affairs medical centers in the U.S.

[Department of Veterans Affairs statistics sheet](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 3819 "would cost \$323 million over the 2009-2013 period."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 3819](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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